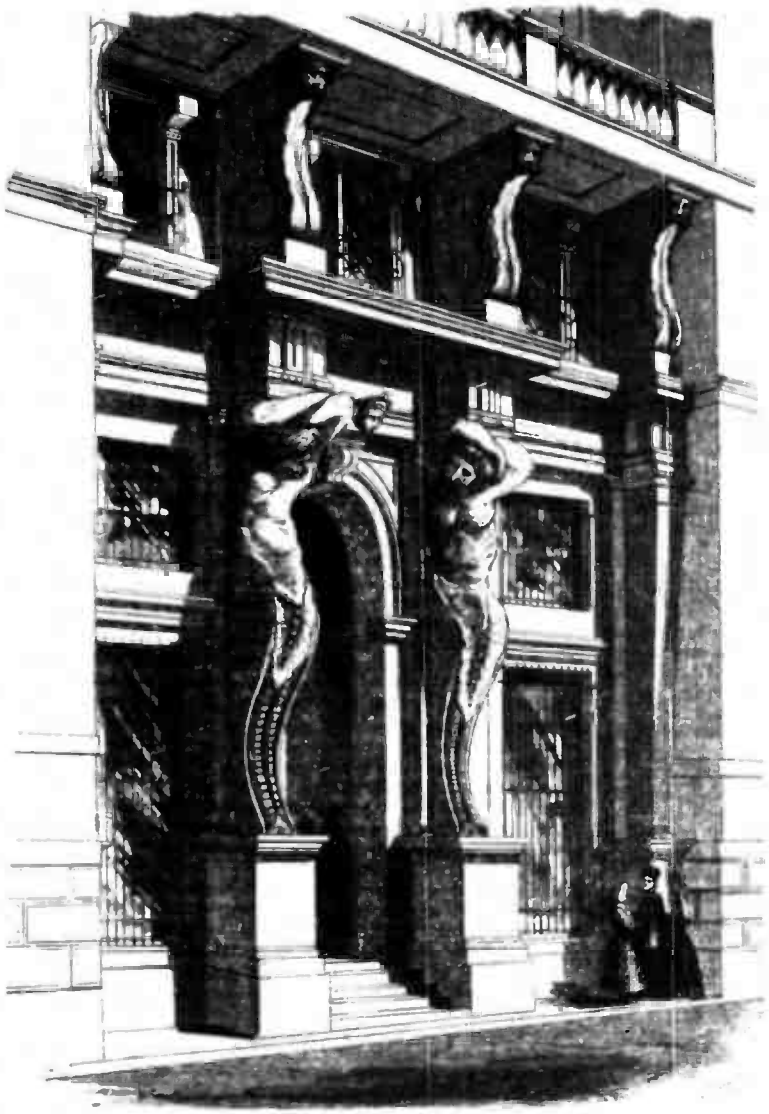
DOORWAY, GENOA.



DOORWAY, GENOA.

This is the doorway to a palace at the end of the Strada Nuova, and exhibits considerable ingenuity of design. The material is white marble from Carara, and it is a fair specimen of the luxury and taste of the merchant princes who gave to Genoa her well-deserved title of *La Superba*.

G. T. R.

SOMETHING OF AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE.

Your advocacy of the rising science of agriculture must have afforded great gratification to many of your more reflective readers. The subject is a most interesting one; and many of your more strictly professional subscribers must see its important bearings on their own future prosperity as professions: of course, I allude to its engineering and its architectural features. There is a vast field opening on them in this direction. Building and engineering operations will yet be as vastly increased in agriculture and horticulture as they have been in other branches of manufacture since "the era of the distaff and the spinning-wheel."

Were I about to enter further on this subject in its engineering and its architectural aspects, I would be walking out of the province of mere "cursory comment and suggestion" on minor details altogether, and preparing an article which ought to be worthy of a separate place in your columns; but such is not my purpose in these preliminary remarks, which I design only as a palliative and a reason for offering in the columns of The Builder a few stray suggestions and comments which might otherwise have been erroneously imagined to be fitter for the columns of the *Gardener's Chronicle*,—so true is your occasional reminder that the interest and the office of The Builder spreads and extends in every direction, and grapples with and comprehends every great question almost that affects human progress. True, what I am going to note down here *would* probably suit the columns of the *Gardener's Chronicle*; nevertheless, it is not unadapted to those of The Builder itself in this more enlightened view of its important functions. If the advancement of agriculture be promotive of the architectural and engineering professions, anything that may tend to promote agriculture itself cannot but be of at least secondary service to these professions, and be quite in place in its present subordinate position. And besides, even apart from its not very distant or secondary bearing on the prospects of the builder, the architect, and the engineer, I think I shall have your permission in my endeavour to aid in rendering an occasional article such as the present as miscellaneous as possible in its nature, and, in fact, a sort of *olla podrida* of useful or amusing fragments in the shape of suggestion and comment, without any special restriction to "the shop." I am the more emboldened in this assurance when I call to recollection the sound and liberal sentiments expressed in a leading article on a recent occasion addressed more particularly to your younger professional readers on the folly of restricting their pursuits and studies to office acquisitions and duties merely, and on the advantage and indeed the necessity of enlightening their minds from every point of view—in every branch of knowledge.

"Not only," you remark, "is it desirable you should get knowledge of this sort, but it is absolutely necessary. A general knowledge of the leading sciences is now so universally possessed, that ignorance of them in any one is a positive disgrace: to the title of architect, especially, you could, without this knowledge, have no claim. Irrespective of its importance to you professionally, it will give you fresh eyes: without it you cannot see what you look at: with it you may see, literally, through a millstone: all Nature's processes are opened,—every substance speaks. * * * And here let us caution you against the common error of supposing that it is *practical* science alone which concerns and benefits industry: practical science is but the application of abstract truths. * * * It is the men who are looking for and eliciting great truths, careless as to whether they will have any *immediate* effect in increasing the resources, enjoyments, and comforts of men, that are providing arms for the coming generation to achieve their triumphs in the industrial struggle of nations."

How entirely these sentiments harmonise with the quotation which I have since given in your columns from the philosophy of Dugald

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